

NEWSLETTER - July 2011 - Participants - 2nd Edition

The newsletter aims to provide you with the most up to date information and keep you informed of the latest developments within UK NEQAS. If you would like to include anything in the newsletter or have any suggestions on improvements please email the office at office@ukneqas.org.uk, we welcome your feedback. We will be aiming to provide a newsletter on a quarterly basis.

In this issue you will find the latest information on the following:

- New Schemes
- Participant Meetings
- Update from NQAAP (UK Only)

New Schemes

UK NEQAS for Clinical Chemistry have recently launched a pilot External Quality Assessment (EQA) Scheme for **Faecal Markers of Bowel Inflammation**.

The scheme has been distributing genuine patient material enabling laboratories to analyse specimens not only for Calprotectin and Lactoferrin, but also for more obscure 'markers' such as Protein S100A12.

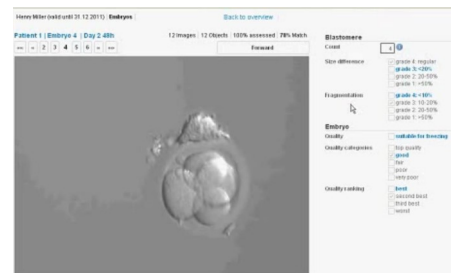
Clinical Chemistry Birmingham aim to launch the full EQA Scheme in Autumn of 2011.

POCT - Allergy Pharmacies - please register your interest <http://www.immqas.org.uk/main/form/form.html>

Andrology has now changed it's name to Reproductive Science.

The UK NEQAS Reproductive Science Scheme went live in April 2011 and is an expansion of the Andrology Scheme which has been running since 1994.

In addition to this UK NEQAS Reproductive Science have introduced a new Embryology Scheme to UK NEQAS. This was piloted to 50 laboratories within the UK and Ireland during 2010. As with the online Andrology scheme, it is in collaboration with 'Gamete Expert'. For each distribution, 'rolling' embryo video clips can be viewed online and participants are asked to score the embryos on day 2, 3, and 5 of culture. In addition, time-lapse images of embryos taken with the 'Embryoscope'™ Incubator are also assessed. This is the first scheme of its type in the world and it should be a great success.



The expansion of the scheme gives scope to providing the Embryology Scheme to about eighty IVF units in the UK and many more overseas. With the established Andrology scheme and its online components the Reproductive Science scheme looks set to offer a quality EQA service to the UK and beyond.

Please contact the Central Office (office@ukneqas.org.uk) for further information if you are interested in any of the above schemes.

UK Only—National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel

The current Joint Working Group Conditions of Participation have a Return Rate criterion set at 75%, this has now changed to 100% for ALL Schemes from ALL providers (not just UK NEQAS Schemes) as part of the new Joint Working Group conditions of Participation. The National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel (NQAAP) for Chemical Pathology endorses this change. This means that every laboratory must submit a 'return' for every Distribution. Even if it is not possible to submit any results for a Distribution, you must provide an explanation as to why this was not possible.

Participant Meetings

UK NEQAS for Leucocyte Immunophenotyping:

UK NEQAS for Leucocyte Immunophenotyping held their participant meeting at Sheffield Hallam University on Monday 13th June 2011 covering all aspects of the Molecular and Flow Cytometry programmes.

There were over 200 UK and international delegates in attendance from countries such as Egypt, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Malta, Romania, Nigeria, South Africa, China, Singapore and Finland.

The meeting proved to be a huge success with positive comments received from all.

Upcoming Participant Meetings

We have the following participant meetings scheduled so far;

Molecular Genetics Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis EQA Participants Meeting—Stockholm, Sweden, Saturday 2nd July, 2011 (as part of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology Annual Conference)

Blood Coagulation - Annual Scientific Meeting, Sheffield Hallam University on Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th September 2011

General Haematology Participants' Symposium, 'Maintaining Quality in the Liberated NHS', York Racecourse on Thursday 13th October 2011. Further details of programme and social event available shortly.

UK NEQAS for Cardiac Markers

UK NEQAS for Cardiac Markers are holding a meeting in Glasgow on Thursday 13th October 2011 for Cardiac Marker Dialogues.

The success and interest of the 2010 Cardiac Marker Dialogues meeting has led the Cardiac Markers team to believe there is a requirement for a yearly meeting dedicated to educate and involve all stakeholders in the evolving area of Cardiac Markers, their changing analytical characteristics and their role in diagnosis, treatment and outcomes assessment.

There are different topics set for discussion throughout the day with six speakers.

If you are interested in attending this meeting you can contact UK NEQAS Cardiac Markers who will provide you with all the necessary details for registration at cardiac@ukneqas.org.uk. You can also visit www.cmdmeeting.org.uk for more information.

Blood Transfusion Laboratory Practice - Venue Details TBC, Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th November 2011

Microbiology - 40th Anniversary Meeting, Improving quality in a changing world, London Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd December 2011

Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics - Participants Meeting, Wednesday 7th December 2011, Bristol

Please keep checking the UK NEQAS website www.ukneqas.org.uk for information on participant meetings and